

VISIT...

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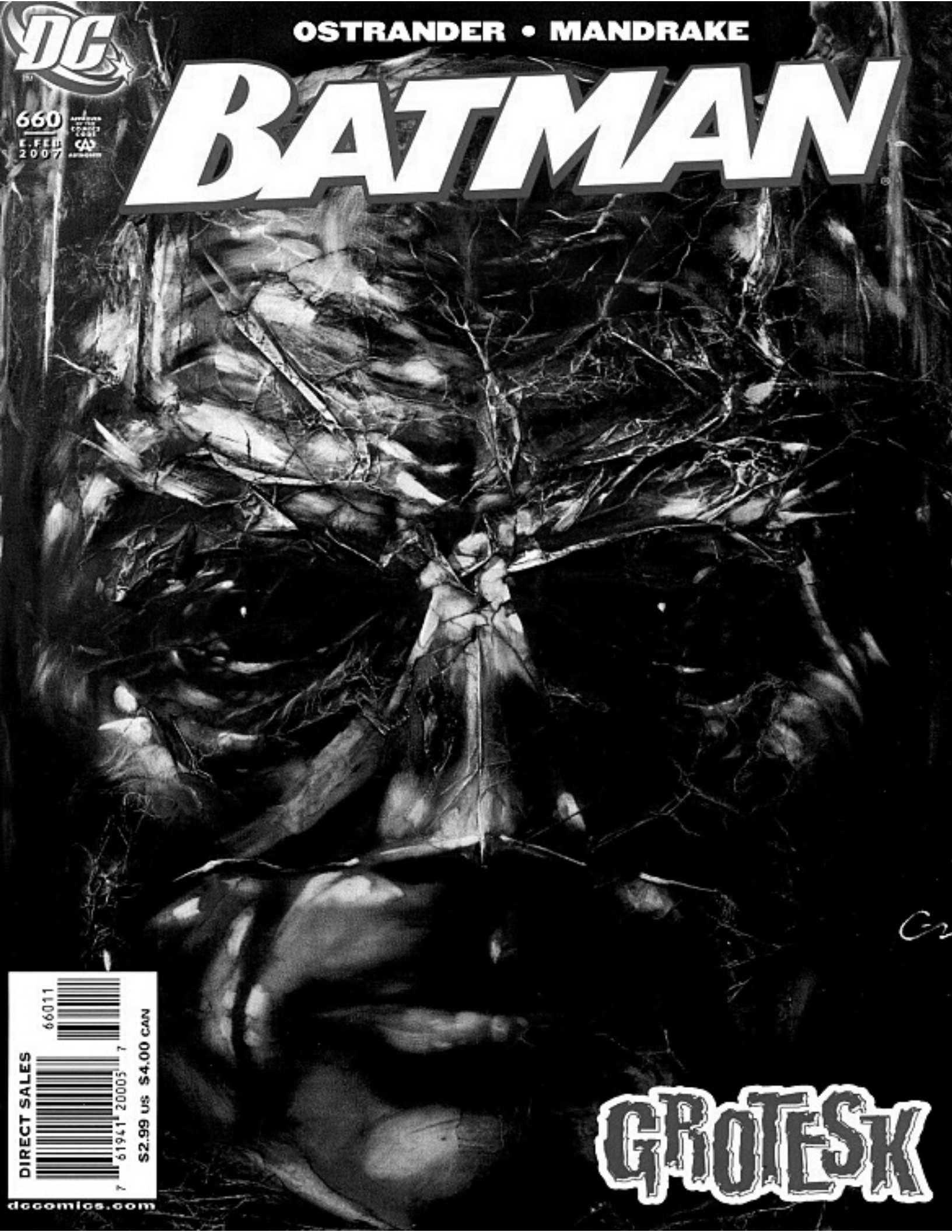


OSTRANDER • MANDRAKE

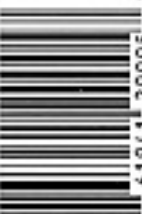
BATMAN

660

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GROTESK

dc comics.com

OMNIMED, A DIVISION OF ZEIS
PHARMACEUTICALS. 2:05 A.M.

RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.

WHY
DOESN'T IT
WORK?

DR. MYLES
STRANE.

YAAAH!

WHAT
DO YOU WANT
FROM ME?!

ANSWERS.

JACQUI
TREMAYNE STOLE
MIMIC FROM WAYNE
FRANKLIN'S I-GORE
DEVICE, DIDN'T
SHE?



WELL...OKAY...
YES.

CONCEPTUALLY IT'S
A GREAT IDEA. DESIGNED
TO BE A SURGEON'S HANDS
EVEN FROM FAR AWAY VIA
A CYBERNETIC LINK.

JUST
ONE SMALL
PROBLEM.



IT
DOESN'T
WORK.



PERHAPS
YOU'RE NOT AS
BRILLIANT AS THE
LATE DOCTOR
FRANKLIN.

I HAD
HIS NOTES. IT
DIDN'T REALLY
WORK FOR HIM,
BITHER.

GENERAL
SCALPEL WORK IS
NOT A PROBLEM, BUT IT
BOTCHES THE FINE CUTS
AND THE STITCHING.
HIGHER-UPS GAVE ME THE
PROTOTYPE AND THE
NOTES AND SAID MAKE
IT WORK.

CAN'T BE
DONE.

YOU WILL
GIVE ME THOSE
NOTES, DOCTOR
STRANE.





HEY THERE,
LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD
YOU SURE ARE LOOKING
GOOD.

HAWROOOO!

GROTESK

PART 2

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BATMAN created by BOB KANE

JAPANESE GROONER
SINGING AT THE
DOOR IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE NIGHT.
GOTHAM. GOTTA
LOVE IT.

SHOO
HIM AWAY
WHYDONCHA,
MIKE?

BUILDING'S
CLOSED.

NO,
NO, NO! I AM
BEING JOHNNY
KARAOKE.

I AM
HAVING BIG
BUSINESS HERE
WITH MY GEISHA
GIRLS.

COME BACK
DURING BUSINESS
HOURS.

NOT
CONVENIENT FOR
MYSELF. YOU HAVE
UPSTAIRS SOMETHING
BELONGING
TO ME.

LOST
FACE TO MY
OYABUN BECAUSE
OF IT. LOST PART
OF ME.

YEAH,
WELL, COME
BACK IN THE
MORNING.

YOU
WON'T OPEN
DOOR?







HEY,
GIRLS! WHO
WINNING?







KRAK

FWAM



WHOOSH

WHAM

UNN!

KRAK

YOU RELY
TOO MUCH ON
WEAPONS.

YOUR
MISTAKE.





YOU CAN DROP THE "PIDGIN ENGLISH" ROUTINE.

YOUR UNDERLYING CADENCES AND INFLECTIONS ARE AMERICAN-- SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, TO BE EXACT.

VERY GOOD! I STUDIED BUSINESS ADMIN AT UCLA.

VERY USEFUL FOR THE MODERN GANGSTER.

AND I WAS ON THE FENCING TEAM.

YOUR LUNGE NEEDS WORK.



TALK.

YOU'RE
HERE FOR THE
MIMIC.

WHY?

I BOUGHT
IT! I UNDERWROTE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE
I-GORE DEVICE THAT
THEY STOLE IT
FROM!





GROTESK.



DOWN STAIRWAYS,
GIRLS! POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN
COMING PRETTY SOON, I BET!
GO GO GO!



MY LITTLE
RUNAWAYS! RUN-
RUN-RUN-RUN-
RUNAWAYS!



WHAM



Strange.

Too
late.

The Mimic device is
gone. Notes probably
taken or burned.



Just Grotesk's
usual funeral
pyre.

THE
PRESSURE TO SOLVE
THIS MESS JUST INCREASED
EXPONENTIALLY. ALL THREE
OF THE MURDERED SECURITY
GUARDS WERE RETIRED
B.C.P.D. GOOD
MEN.

THIS MORE
OF GROTESK'S
HANDIWORK?



THE GUARDS WERE KILLED
BY A YAKUZA CALLING
HIMSELF JOHNNY
KARAOKE.

HE TRAVELS
WITH FOUR YOUNG
AND LETHAL FEMALE
BODYGUARDS HE
CALLS HIS GEISHA
GIRLS.



STRANE, HOWEVER, WAS
KILLED BY GROTESK WHO
I NOW BELIEVE TO BE THE
"LATE" DR. WAYNE
FRANKLIN.

JACUI
TREMAYNE DATED
HIM AND STOLE HIS
I-GORE PLANS
FOR MIMIC.



RECOMMEND
FRANKLIN'S BODY
BE EXHUMED FOR A DNA
TEST. IF, AS I SUSPECT,
THE BODY ISN'T FRANKLIN,
THEN IT RAISES THE
QUESTION-- WHOSE
BODY IS IT?

I'VE LEARNED
FRANKLIN'S PARENTS WERE
BOS RADICALS IN A GROUP
THAT INCLUDED GROTESK'S
OTHER VICTIM - GEORGE
WILLIAMSON.



THE GROUP
PULLED A BANK
ROBBERY AND A SECURITY
GUARD WAS KILLED. THEY
ALL DISAPPEARED BACK
INTO THE MIDDLE CLASS.
WILLIAMSON'S RECENT BANK
RECORDS SUGGEST HE
WAS BLACKMAILED.

LUCIDO WAS
A LOCAL LOAN SHARK.
AND KARAOKE SAID HE
"UNDERWROTE"
I-GORE'S
DEVELOPMENT.

THE
RUSSIAN MAFIA
BOSS, PERUN, ACTS
LIKE FRANKLIN OWED
HIM MONEY,
TOO.





MY GOD! WAS FRANKLIN INSANE ENOUGH TO BORROW MONEY FROM ALL THOSE RIVAL SOURCES?!

HOW WAS HE PLANNING TO PULL IT OFF?!

BY FAKING HIS OWN DEATH. BUT SOMETHING OBVIOUSLY WENT WRONG.

FRANKLIN... GROTESK... IS TALKING ABOUT GETTING "JUSTICE." SOMEBODY TRIED TO KILL HIM.

IT WOULD EXPLAIN HIS CONDITION.

PERUN THINKS FRANKLIN'S SISTER AMINA KNOWS MORE THAN SHE'S SAYING. MAYBE SHE DOES. SHE'S STILL AT DR. THOMPSON'S CLINIC?



NO. SHE'S WORKING THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT OVER AT ST. "ELIGIUS."



SORRY I'M LATE, LEA!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, DR. FRANKLIN! WITH THIS WEATHER, NOT MANY STAFF HAVE GOTTEN IN. PATIENTS HAVE, OF COURSE!









PREPARE
TO BLEED.

TO BE CONTINUED



Why tempt fate? That seems to be the challenge being put forth to the DC Universe starting in January.

As the most recent Dr. Fate, Hector Hall and Nabu met their "fates" during INFINITE CRISIS and his helmet was cast off to points unknown. If you've been following 52 (and I certainly hope you have), you've probably noticed that the disembodied helmet of Fate reappeared and has been following Ralph Dibny throughout the series while he continues on his spiritual quest. And while the outcome of Ralph's journey is a story yet to be told, the helmet, it appears, will be turning up in the New Year in some of the most unlikely places.

Starting in January, the ultimate magical accessory, THE HELMET OF FATE, will be starring in a series of one-shots costarring a wide mix of the mystical superstars from the DCU. The first one up features a solo appearance by our very own simian sleuth, DETECTIVE CHIMP, in a story by Bill Willingham and Shawn McManus. By the way, the chimp wants to make sure everyone knows that even though the helmet gets top billing, he's still the star of the book.

In the remaining one-shots, I'm happy to say that the other costars are not nearly as worried about their status. As a matter of fact, the next two mystic stars are just happy to be back in the spotlight. Returning from the Golden

Age, IBIS THE INVINCIBLE rounds out the month of January in a tale by Tad Williams and Phil Winslade, and SARGON THE SORCERER, by Steve Niles and Scott Hampton, makes his way to your local store in February.

Also in February, Steve Gerber and Peter Snejbjerg spotlight the solo tale of former Justice Leaguer and angel (the heavenly kind) ZAURIEL.

The last of our one-shots features one of our youngest and fastest-rising stars. Fresh from her appearances in BIRDS OF PREY and DAY OF VENGEANCE, BLACK ALICE, in a story by Gail Simone and Duncan Rouleau, is the last to try on the helmet of the ill-fated doctor.

As for who will ultimately wear the HELMET OF FATE, well, let's just say we are saving that little mystery for the first issue of the new ongoing DR. FATE series premiering in April. Given that the helmet is a precious and powerful heirloom, I wouldn't be surprised if the writer and artist team of Steve Gerber and Paul Gulacy found a way to keep it in the family.

To be continued.

Dan DiDio

DC NATION

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at dccomics.com



THE HOT LIST THIS WEEK



52 #32



BATMAN CONFIDENTIAL #1



DCU INFINITE HOLIDAY SPECIAL #1

Next in...

BATMAN #661

To save a woman's life, Batman must face the Russian mafia, the Japanese Yakuza and the monstrous Grotski!

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Stars and
garters be
praised, it's
good to be
Beast!

HE'S HAPPY
BECAUSE

HE SCANS

AND

HE SCANS

BECAUSE

HE'S HAPPY: *BeastCharming*